



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



**Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon
Minister of State (Middle East,
North Africa, South Asia and The
UN)**

**Prime Minister's Special
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Alicia Kearns MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

8th November 2023

Dear Alicia,

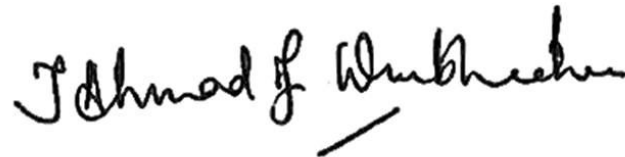
I am writing regarding a question you raised at the Foreign Affairs Committee meeting held on 17 October in relation to the Afghan Commando Force (CF) 333. You highlighted concerns raised by Lord Sedwill that former members of CF333 had been found ineligible for resettlement to the UK under ARAP.

CF333 was established by the UK as part of the international community's counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan. It was an elite special operations force under the control of the General Directorate of Policy Special Units (GDPSU) of the Afghan Ministry of Interior. It conducted counter-terrorist, counter-narcotic, and counter-insurgency operations over an almost twenty-year period. The then FCO-led Afghan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit (ADIDU) was heavily involved in developing and coordinating counter-narcotics policy but did not have control over CF333 or its military units.

MOD are the lead department for ARAP and also assess ARAP applications made by former members of CF333. These assessments are made according to the ARAP eligibility criteria as set out in the immigration rules and are considered on a case-by-case basis. If an individual's application is rejected, a review can be requested and further evidence provided of meeting the eligibility criteria. I can confirm that a number of former members of CF333 have been found eligible under ARAP.

I am not able to provide further details on why some former members of CF333 may have been found ineligible under ARAP. I have however written to the Minister for the Armed Forces noting the Committee's interest in this matter and recommending that he provide further clarification to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON

Minister of State

Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict